

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3947

To permit the Secretary of Homeland Security to grant citizenship to an alien who serves on active duty in the Armed Forces, to assist such an alien in applying for citizenship, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 27, 2006

Mr. FRIST introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To permit the Secretary of Homeland Security to grant citizenship to an alien who serves on active duty in the Armed Forces, to assist such an alien in applying for citizenship, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Soldiers to Citizens
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. CITIZENSHIP FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED**
2 **FORCES.**

3 Section 329 of the Immigration and Nationality Act
4 (8 U.S.C. 1440) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (b), by striking “subsection
6 (a)” and inserting “subsection (a) or (d)”; and

7 (2) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, ex-
9 cept for provisions relating to revocation of citizenship
10 under subsection (c), an individual who is not a citizen
11 of the United States shall not be denied the opportunity
12 to apply for membership in the United States Armed
13 Forces. Such an individual who becomes an active duty
14 member of the United States Armed Forces shall, con-
15 sistent with this section and with the approval of the indi-
16 vidual’s chain of command, be granted United States citi-
17 zenship after performing at least 2 years of honorable and
18 satisfactory service on active duty. Not later than 90 days
19 after such requirements are met with respect to an indi-
20 vidual, such individual shall be granted United States citi-
21 zenship.

22 “(e) An alien described in subsection (d) shall be nat-
23 uralized without regard to the requirements of this title
24 or any other requirements, processes, or procedures of the
25 Secretary of Homeland Security, if the alien—

1 “(1) files an application for naturalization in
2 accordance with such procedures to carry out this
3 section as may be established by regulation by the
4 Secretary of Homeland Security or the Secretary of
5 Defense;

6 “(2) demonstrates to the alien’s military chain
7 of command proficiency in the English language,
8 good moral character, and knowledge of the Federal
9 Government and United States history, consistent
10 with the requirements contained in this Act; and

11 “(3) takes the oath required under section 337
12 of this Act and participates in an oath administra-
13 tion ceremony in accordance with this Act.”.

14 **SEC. 3. WAIVER OF REQUIREMENT FOR FINGERPRINTS**
15 **FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.**

16 Notwithstanding any other provision of law or any
17 regulation, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall use
18 the fingerprints provided by an individual at the time the
19 individual enlists in the Armed Forces to satisfy any re-
20 quirement for fingerprints as part of an application for
21 naturalization if the individual—

22 (1) may be naturalized pursuant to section 328
23 or 329 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8
24 U.S.C. 1439 and 1440);

1 (2) was fingerprinted in accordance with the re-
2 quirements of the Department of Defense at the
3 time the individual enlisted in the Armed Forces;
4 and

5 (3) submits an application for naturalization
6 not later than 12 months after the date the indi-
7 vidual enlisted in the Armed Forces.

8 **SEC. 4. PROVISION OF INFORMATION ON NATURALIZATION**
9 **TO MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.**

10 The Secretary of Homeland Security shall—

11 (1) establish a dedicated toll-free telephone
12 service available only to members of the Armed
13 Forces and the families of such members to provide
14 information related to naturalization pursuant to
15 section 328 or 329 of the Immigration and Nation-
16 ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1439 and 1440), including the
17 status of an application for such naturalization;

18 (2) ensure that the telephone service required
19 by paragraph (1) is operated by employees of the
20 Department of Homeland Security who—

21 (A) have received specialized training on
22 the naturalization process for members of the
23 Armed Forces and the families of such mem-
24 bers; and

1 (B) are physically located in the same unit
2 as the military processing unit that adjudicates
3 applications for naturalization pursuant to such
4 section 328 or 329; and

5 (3) implement a quality control program to
6 monitor, on a regular basis, the accuracy and quality
7 of information provided by the employees who oper-
8 ate the telephone service required by paragraph (1),
9 including the breadth of the knowledge related to the
10 naturalization process of such employees.

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